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A STUDY OF THE RELATIONSHIP OF GEOLOGICAL FORMATION TO THE
NORM

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A Study of the Relationship of Geological Formation to the Norm

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ABSTRACT

Naturally Occurring Radioactive Materials (NORM) is a common and costly contaminant of produced waters associated with natural gas production and exploration. One way of combatting this problem is by identifying the problem beforehand. Our approach to this problem involves development of NORM prediction capabilities based on the geological environment.

During quarter fifiteen of this project, work has continued under the recently approved revisions. We have selected sampling sites and are awaiting samples for analysis. In addition, the QA/QC plans are in the final stages in anticipation of sample acquisition.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

	PAGE
Disclaimer	i
Abstract.....	ii
Executive Summary	1
Project Introduction	1
Results and Discussion	1
Conclusion	1

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

The Southern University Center for Energy and Environmental Studies along with partners Louisiana State University's Basin Research Institute (BRI), and the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) have teamed up to explore relationships between geological and radiological factors (NORM). Each of these partners will employ their specific areas of expertise in developing predictive capabilities with respect to NORM in the produced waters associated with natural gas exploration.

PROJECT INTRODUCTION:

This project is to consist of three major tasks: (1) Radiological Analysis, (2) Correlative Results with Respect to NORM Activity and geological parameters (Geo-environmental maps), and (3) Technology Transfer.

The radiological and minor chemical analysis of samples are taking place at Southern University with the geo-environmental results being generated at Louisiana State University.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION:

During this reporting period, efforts were geared towards selection of sampling sites and finalizing sampling arrangements. The appropriate methods, etc., are in place and we are awaiting samples. The initial stages of radiation analysis are in progress as are the final stages of our QA/QC plan.

CONCLUSION:

Sampling sites have been selected and we are shortly anticipating receiving samples from these selected sites of a major oil corporation. We are also currently in the final stages of updating our QA/QC plans. All other major tasks associated with the project are in progress.